

REMARKS

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-17 are now present in this application. Claims 1, 8 and 13 are independent.

Amendments have been made to the claim 13. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified priority documents.

Drawings

The Office Action indicates that the drawings are accepted by the Examiner.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has set forth one instance wherein the claim language lacks antecedent basis.

In order to overcome this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 13 to correct the deficiency specifically pointed out by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully submits that the claim, as amended, particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 1-12 are allowed and claims 14-17 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application. However, claims 14-17 have not been rewritten in independent form at this time, since it is believed that independent claim 13 from which these claims depend is allowable.

Cited References

Since the references cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but have merely been cited to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

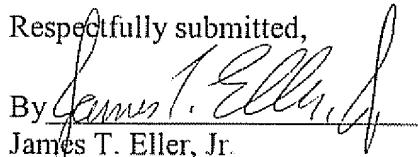
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone James T. Eller, Jr., Registration No. 39,538, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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